PCO/STD/ISD/FAX booths at railway stations

757. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the policy for allotment of PCO/STD/ ISD/FAX booths at Railway Stations has been changed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the policy regarding allotment of the same PCO/STD/ ISD/FAX booths to legal heirs of deceased handicapped persons at Railway Stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revised policy stipulates eligibility conditions, procedure for selection of candidates, terms and conditions for allotment, monitoring system etc.

(c) In case of death of the licensee during the tenure of the contract, the licence shall be transferred in the name of his/her spouse or legal heir for the unexpired period only irrespective of the fact whether he/she belongs to the category under which the licence was accorded but subject to conditions that he/she will get the telephone booth transferred in his/her favour from the MTNL or Telephone Department.

Consultancy Firm for Developing OFN of Railways

758. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 665 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th May, 2000 and state:

(a) the procedure being adopted to select the consultancy firm for developing the business plan for the corporation for optical Fibre network and the time schedule thereof;

(b) the details arising out of the Railways' action to set up the proposed Corporation;

(c) the nature and equity holdings of this proposed Corporation;

(d) the approximate project cost and the financing pattern;

(e) whether the project is being implemented all at one go or it is being phased out; and

(f) the time schedule for generating revenue from the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) 'Expressions of interest' have been invited from reputed consultancy firms/ organisations for developing Railway's business plan. A broadbased task force consisting of representatives of Ministry of Railways, Communications, Finance, Law, Justice and Company Affairs and Prime Minister's office has been assisting Railways in selecting consultant.

(b) The proposal for setting up of a professionally-managed corporation is under Government's consideration.

(c) and (d) Decisions regarding the nature and equity holding of the corporation, approximate project cost and the financing pattern would be taken on receipt of the business plan.

(e) The project will be implemented by the corporation in suitable phases in the light of business plan.

(f) Rs. 500 crore are expected to be generated by way of utilising right of way for laying of optical fibre cable during the current financial year.

Mafia operators at coal loading points in Railways

759. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is in the knowledge of the authorities concerned that Mafia operates at the coal loading points in collieries and get the wagons loaded as they desired;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have not been able to get rid of the interference of Mafia for over decades past; if so, the reasons therefor;